Dams on rivers flowing from Nepal

†266. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the latest status of Indo-Nepal dialogue regarding construction of dams on the rivers flowing from Nepal into Northern Bihar for controlling floods;

(b) whether any dialogue in this regard was held during the visit of the Nepali Prime Minister to India;

(c) whether any assurance was given by the Prime Minister; and

(d) if so, the status of the progress made in the light of the dialogue and the assurances given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal visited India in March, 2002 wherein issues relating to cooperation in Water Resources Sector were also discussed. The two Prime Ministers *inter alia* stressed the need to set up the Joint Project Office on Sapta Kosi-Sun Kosi Project expeditiously for commencing the work on the preparation of the Joint Detailed Project Report.

The Government of India has since approved the proposal of setting up of Joint Project Office-Sapta Kosi Sun Kosi Investigation (JPO-SKSKI) at an estimated cost of Rs. 29.34 crore to take up the field investigation and preparation of Joint Detailed Project Report. The modalities for setting up of JPO-SKSKI were discussed during the 5th meeting of India-Nepal Joint Team of Experts (JTE) held in June 2003.

As regards projects on other rivers flowing from Nepal into North Bihar, the proposal for construction of multipurpose storage dams on river Kamla near Chisapani and on river Bagmati near Noonthar in Nepal is also under discussion with Nepal. Efforts to workout an understanding in this regard are in progress though Nepal feels that these projects may not be feasible because of socio and environmental implications. These projects were further discussed during the above meeting of JTE and the irrigation water requirements in respect of Kamala and Bagmati Irrigation Schemes in India were given to the Nepalese side who were also requested to give similar data of their projects.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.